

Don't Add to the Gospel

By David J. Stewart

Acts 15:1,24, "And certain men which came down from Judaea taught the brethren, and said, Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved. Forasmuch as we have heard, that certain which went out from us have troubled you with words, subverting your souls, saying, Ye must be circumcised, and keep the law: to whom we gave no such commandment."

The Bible says that "certain men" came down from Judaea who taught false doctrine to the brethren, perverting the Gospel message. They taught that a person who is not circumcised and fails to keep the Law cannot be saved. This greatly troubled the brethren, who had been previously taught by the Apostle Paul that salvation was wholly of God's grace and not of works.

We still have these "certain men" with us today, men like John MacArthur and Ray Comfort, who trouble the Church by teaching that a person must depart from sinful living to be saved. The Bible gives no such commandment.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is very simple—We are sinners and Jesus is the Savior! One who acknowledges his or her guilt of sin for breaking God's holy commandments, and who believes on the Lord Jesus Christ for forgiveness will be saved. Acts 10:43, "To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins." The change of life that ought to follow is the result of genuine repentance, and not a part of saving-faith itself. This blessed truth is clearly taught in Romans 4:6, "Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works." It is through faith that God attributes the righteousness of Christ to our record in Heaven. Literally, we are saved by HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS. Matthew 6:33, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS; and all these things shall be added unto you." Romans 10:3,4, "For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth."

The reason for so much confusion in our churches today is a common misunderstanding of the word "repentance," which Biblically means "a change of mind." It does not mean a change of lifestyle. [Pastor Harry Ironside](#) (1876-1951) said it best...

"Repentance is the recognition of my sinnership — the

owning before God that I am as vile as He has declared me to be in His holy Word."

SOURCE: Except Ye Repent, by Dr. Harry Ironside, chapter 3

Some people have claimed it is just a matter of semantics concerning Ray Comfort's teachings and what the Bible says. Not so.

Heaven or Hell?

Ray Comfort Corrupts Matthew 7:22,23

"Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity." —Matthew 7:22,23

On page 1197 of *THE EVIDENCE BIBLE*, Ray Comfort comments on Matthew 7:22,23...

"These are perhaps the most frightening verses in the Bible. Vast multitudes of professing Christians fit into the category spoken of here. They call Jesus 'Lord,' but they practice lawlessness. They profess faith in Jesus, but have no regard for the divine law. hey tell 'fibs' or 'white' lies, take things that belong to others, have a roaming eye for the opposite sex, etc. They are liars, thieves, and adulterers at heart, who will be cast from the gates of heaven into the jaws of hell."

SOURCE: *THE EVIDENCE BIBLE*, by Ray Comfort, pg. 1197; 2003, Bridge-Logos Publishers, Orlando, Florida

Ladies and gentleman, Ray Comfort is teaching works salvation! According to what we just read by Ray Comfort, every believer who is still living in deliberate sin won't be allowed into Heaven.

The correct interpretation of Matthew 7:22,23 must include verse 21...

"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven."

What is "the will of the Father"? The answer is found in John 6:40...

"And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day."

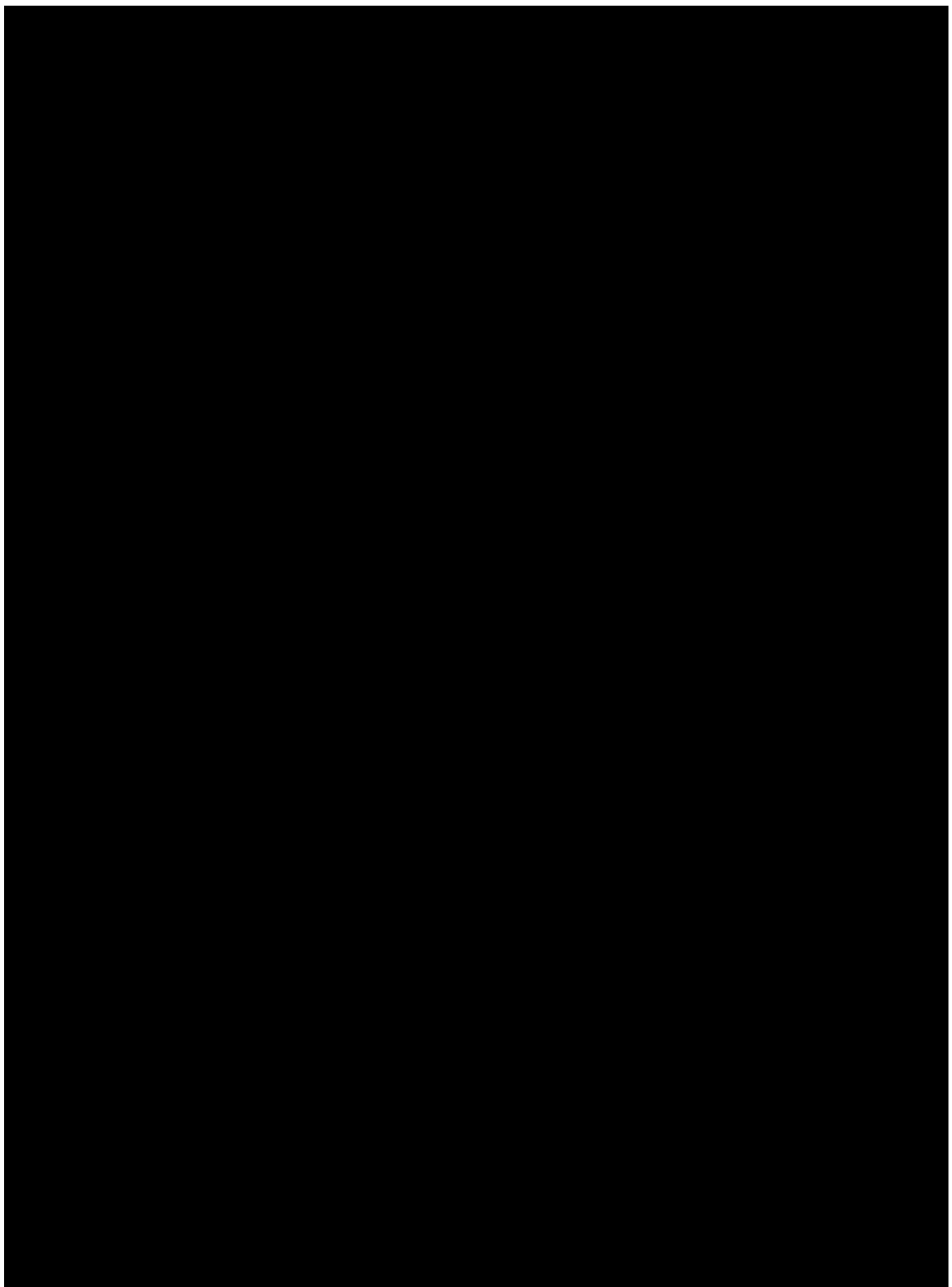
The group in Matthew 7:21-23 were unsaved because they **refused** to do God's will concerning salvation. It wasn't because they still had personal sins in their life. Every believer still has sin in their life! We all sin every day. That's not to say that we have God's approval to sin, God forbid (Romans 3:31). It just means that even the best of Christians are still sinners. Ray Comfort wrestles the Scriptures to his own destruction.

Don't Add to the Gospel

Just as those false prophets in Acts 15:1 added keeping the Law to get saved, so do Catholics add keeping the Seven Sacraments to get saved. Catholicism is a lie of the Devil, which billions of people foolishly follow. No one puts on a religious show like Catholics, but they pervert the Scriptures, adding requirements for salvation that God never commanded in His Word. It is a woeful sin to corrupt the Gospel message. The Bible plainly states that salvation is wholly by God's grace through our faith in Christ. No one can get to Heaven by doing good works or by getting water baptized or by keeping sacraments. Anyone who says that a person must keep the Law to be saved is a liar.

Jesus paid for our sins so we wouldn't have to. It is impossible for anyone to keep the Law. Even our best efforts are futile. No one is capable of fully obeying God's Law. Jesus plainly stated that even sins of the heart are just as wicked in God's eyes as literal sins of the flesh (Matthew 5:28). Those who teach that salvation can be lost fail to realize the extent of their own wickedness, for if salvation could be lost, then we all lost it a long time ago. Who is without sin except our precious Savior?

The Bible says in Acts 15:2 that **"Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and disputation with them."** In other words, they got into a big confrontation. Paul wouldn't back down concerning the truth and told those men they were heretics. Those men had corrupted the Gospel, having added circumcision and keeping of the Law as a requirement to be saved. Let us never make the grave mistake of adding anything to childlike faith in Christ Jesus for salvation. We are woeful sinners and Jesus is the Savior. It's that simple.



Ye Must Be Born Again! | You Need HIS Righteousness!

